

Message Text

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62

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 /143 W

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R 021732Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3393

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PBOR SS MR MO SP

SUBJECT: MAURITANIA FOREIGN MINISTER'S ACCEPTANCE

OF ICJ SAHARA PROPOSAL

REFS: (A) USUN 3608; (B) USUN 3479; (C) USUN 3589

1. SEMI-OFFICIAL "LE MATIN" REPORTED MAURITANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER OULD MOUKNASS' OCT 1 STATEMENT THAT GIRM WOULD ACCEPT ICJ RULING ON SAHARA UNDER BANNER HEADLINE: "MAURITANIA AGREES WITH MOROCCO ON LIBERATION OF SAHARA." NO DETAILS OF OULD MOUKNASS' SPEECH PUBLISHED HERE AS YET.

2. COMMENT: WE NOTE FROM REFTEL (A) THAT OULD MOUKNASS ACCEPTED PROPOSAL FOR ICJ RULING "ON SPANISH OCCUPATION OF THE AREA AND ON MAURITANIA'S OWN CLAIMS TO IT." THERE IS PERHAPS SOME ROOM FOR MANEUVER IN MOROCCAN APPROACH TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MAURITANIAN CLAIMS. AT ONE POINT IN HIS SEPT 17 PRESS

CONFERENCE KING ADMITTED THEORETICAL POSSIBILITY THAT COURT
COULD SUPPORT MAURITANIA'S CLAIM TO REGION,
AND KING'S ICJ PROPOSAL, AS QUOTED IN LARAKI'S SEPT 23
LETTER TO SYG (REFTEL B), IS NOT PRECISELY FORMULATED.
GENERALLY, HOWEVER, MOROCCAN LINE HAS BEEN THAT GIRM
HAS NO HISTORIC CLAIM TO REGION SINCE MAURITANIA DID NOT
EXIST AS STATE PRIOR TO SPANISH OCCUPATION. GOM ADMISSION
THAT ICJ COULD CONSIDER MAURITANIAN CLAIM TO SAHARA WOULD,
IN OUR VIEW, BE MAJOR CONCILIATORY GESTURE. SLAOU'S
STATEMENT TO AMB SCHAUFELER THAT AFRICAN AND OTHER ARABS
SUPPORT GOM (REFTEL C) INDICATES THAT SOME CONSENSUS MAY
IN FACT HAVE BEEN REACHED.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S
POUCHING VERBATIM TEXT SAHARA PORTION OULD MOUKNASS'
SPEECH.
NEUMANN

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